

**AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

The specification has been amended as follows: Underlines indicate insertions and ~~strikethrough~~ indicate deletions.

Please replace paragraph ~~[047]~~ with the following amended paragraph:

[047]  
[048] It will be apparent now to persons of ordinary skill in the art that the legacy application 80 is not in direct communication with the radio modem 54. Instead each legacy application 80 communicates with the mobile message router 94 via a virtual communication port that emulates the functioning of a radio modem. Communication with the mobile message router 94 is initiated by calling the appropriate API layer 84 functions to open the virtual communication port of the system (computer) on which the legacy application 80 is hosted (for example, in Win32 API the OpenHandle() function). In the present illustrative embodiment, the API layer 84 returns a handle that is used to uniquely identify the virtual communications port, and will be released by the legacy application 80 through appropriate function calls via the API layer 84 (for example, in Win32 API the CloseHandle() function), or when the application terminates. The legacy application 80 views the virtual communication port as if it were a standard serial port connected to a radio modem, for example a radio modem having a serial interface such as a DTE/DCE interface, a serial interface, a V.34 interface, a Native Command Language interface or a Hayes compatible interface.

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